

Public Comment of Randi Carmen Schmidt, Executive Director of the Children's Leadership Council and Deborah Stein, J.D., Network Director of the Partnership for America's Children to the Scientific Census Advisory Committee Meeting, December, 2018

These comments are submitted by Randi Carmen Schmidt and Deborah Stein. We are in the process of forming Count All Kids, a national Complete Count Committee for Young Children; we submit these comments because the Committee is not yet fully formed and ready to submit comments.

Randi Carmen Schmidt is Executive Director of the Children's Leadership Council. The CLC is a national coalition of 57 member organizations consisting of national issue-coalitions, policy and advocacy organizations, and major direct service providers with members, affiliates and networks nationwide.

Deborah Stein is the Network Director of the Partnership for America's Children. The Partnership's mission is to support its network of state and community multi-issue child advocacy organizations in effective advocacy. The Partnership has 52 member organizations in 41 states that advocate to improve policies for children at the state, local and federal level. Collectively they represent over 90% of the nation's children. The Partnership connects its members to peer expertise and national resources and facilitates interstate collaborations to deepen the level of impact of child advocacy within and across states. It fosters policy expertise, advocacy skills, and strong organizations.

The Partnership for America's Children is serving as the national hub on the undercount of young children in the 2020 Decennial Census. Both the CLC and Partnership members use Census data in their advocacy. Thirty Partnership members are also KIDS COUNT grantees in their state, serving as that state's data hub on children for policy makers, administrators, and nonprofits.

We are writing to urge the CSAC to address the challenges of the historic undercount of young children, and to urge Census Bureau staff to work with CSAC members to address some of these challenges.

We believe that members of the Census Scientific Advisory Council could assist the Census Bureau in identifying and undertaking additional steps to address the undercount.

For example, in the 2010 Census, a large number of infants born after the April 1 Census date were erroneously included in the 2010 Census count. The exact cause for this problem has not been made clear and we are concerned that the problem may be repeated in the 2020 Census. We urge the Committee and the Census Bureau to review the reasons for this problem.

More generally, we encourage the Committee and the Census Bureau to review the challenges of the young child undercount, with the goal of identifying and addressing other factors that result in young children being missed.

Thank you for considering our recommendations, and for giving us this opportunity to comment.

Randi Carmen Schmidt and Deborah Stein